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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/755,182 | 01/08/2001 | Yutaka Katsuyama | 826.1411D2 | 3899 |

21171 7590 12/29/2003

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| EXAMINER |
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JOHNSON, TIMOTHY M

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2625

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/755,182

Applicant(s)

KATSUYAMA, YUTAKA

Examiner

Timothy M Johnson

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15,28 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15,28 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/909,137.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6-7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

Claim for Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/909,137, filed on August 11, 1997.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 15, 28, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bessho, 5,898,795.

For claim 15, a ruled line extracting apparatus is provided by Bessho in at least the abstract. A straight line extracting means for extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image is provided by Bessho in at least Fig. 2, block 10, or Fig. 3, block 20, providing for an input image, and at least the paragraph bridging cols. 8-9, and the first three full paragraphs in c. 9, and at least Figs. 4-5, 7-12, 13B, and 15, where extracting is explicitly provided by Bessho. Straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of information about a shape of the one among the one or more straight line patterns, and information about a distance between two straight line

patterns included in the one or more straight line patterns is provided by Bessho in at least the first two full paragraphs in c. 11 by shape and distance, and alternately in the first two full paragraphs in c. 12.

For claims 28 and 39, see the rejection of at least claim 14. See also c. 6, lines 49-53, for a computer readable medium implementation.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 15, 28, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang, 5,307,422.

For claim 15, ruled line extracting comprising straight line extracting means for extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image is provided by Wang in at least c. 5, lines 15-50 and lines 65-68, by extracting information of units, which can consist of border lines considered as ruled lines, and inputs an image by at least block 12 in Fig. 1. A straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of information about a shape of the one among the one or more straight line patterns, and information about a distance between two straight line patterns included in the one or more straight line patterns is provided by Wang in at least c. 5, line 30 – c. 6,

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line 10, where units are generally based on different shapes, which correspond to Applicant's straight line shapes.

For claims 28 and 39, see the rejection of at least claim 15, and see Wang in at least the paragraph bridging cols. 4-5, where his invention can be implemented in either hardware or software.

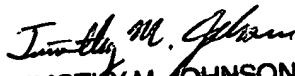
Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 306-3096, or the Supervisory Patent Examiner, Bhavesh M. Mehta, whose telephone number is (703) 308-5246.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 305-4700, (703) 305-4750, (703) 305-9600, or (703) 305-3800, or Customer Service at (703) 306-0377.

The Group Art Unit FAX number is 703-872-9306.

Timothy M. Johnson
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2625
December 17, 2003


TIMOTHY M. JOHNSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER